

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 04958 211703Z  
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T BONN 04958

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, GW, BR  
SUBJECT: FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

1. AT RECEPTION MARCH 20 HOSTED BY CHANCELLOR AND MRS. SCHMIDT, I HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH HIM. WHEN I MENTIONED THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES OF BONN COALITION, SCHMIDT RESPONDED CONFIDENTLY AND SAID PROBLEMS WOULD BE OVERCOME; MUCH MORE IMPORTANT AND TOUGHER, HOWEVER, WERE PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WHEN I REFERRED TO RECENT VISITS OF GENSCHER AND LEBER TO WASHINGTON AND SAID MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THESE HAD HELPED TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING, SCHMIDT AGREED, BUT COMMENTED THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING POINTS. I REJOINED THAT THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY SOON FOR HIM TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, AT WHICH TIME IT WAS HOPED THAT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE.

2. SCHMIDT COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS EXPECTING A GREAT DEAL AND HE ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW ONE WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION ON PROBLEMS AFFECTING US-FRG RELATIONS WHEN THERE WAS SO MUCH BEING SAID IN THE PRESS, PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF BACKGROUNDING, AND WHEN  
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PUBLIC EMOTIONS WERE BECOMING SO AROUSED OVER THE ISSUES. ON THE FRG-BRAZIL DEAL, HE RECALLED THAT THE PRESIDENT IN THEIR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION A MONTH AGO HAD PROMISED THAT A "WIDE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES" WOULD BE PRESENTED, BUT SO FAR HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY. I REMINDED SCHMIDT THAT, IN FACT, WE HAD PRESENTED A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES WHICH WARRANTED SERIOUS STUDY;

SCHMIDT CONCEDED THAT SOME IDEAS HAD BEEN PRESENTED, BUT HE DID NOT FIND THEM SUFFICIENT. AT THIS POINT OUR CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED AND THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO RESUME IT.

3. IN A SEPARATE TALK THE SAME EVENING WITH RUHFUS, SCHMIDT'S ASSISTANT IN THE CHANCELLERY, HE WAS RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC IN TONE AND SAID THAT, FOLLOWING GENSCHER AND LEBER VISITS TO WASHINGTON, HE HAD FEELING THAT THINGS AT LAST WERE BEGINNING TO MOVE IN RIGHT DIRECTION TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THE FRG-BRAZIL PROBLEM AND OTHER ISSUES. HE WAS AWARE OF OUR REQUEST TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF THE LICENSES TO BE GRANTED TO BRAZIL; HE THOUGHT THIS WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND THAT IN PURSUING THIS COURSE WE MIGHT BE ON THE TRACK OF A SOLUTION. SPECULATING, HE WONDERED IF GRANTING SOME PORTION OF THE LICENSES MIGHT GET THE FRG OVER THE HUMP WITH BRAZIL AND EASE TIME PRESSURES, THUS GIVING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE INTENSIVE STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN HANDLING SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGIES. IF BRAZIL WERE TO JOIN THE SUPPLIERS GROUP, THIS COULD ALSO HELP EASE MATTERS TOWARD RESOLUTION. RUHFUS NOTED MY STATEMENT THAT OUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE LICENSES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS ANY ALTERATION IN OUR POSITION AND THAT, IN PARTICULAR, WE EXPECTED THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON GRANTING THE LICENSES PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATION. HE INDICATED NO PROBLEM WITH THIS VIEW, AND SAID ONLY THAT HE FELT THE FOREIGN  
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OFFICE ITSELF WAS INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE LICENSES THAN THEY HAD KNOWN PREVIOUSLY.

4. RUHFUS STRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY AT TIME OF LONDON SUMMIT FOR PRESIDENT AND SCHMIDT TO HAVE GOOD, THOROUGH BILATERAL TALK. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS ONLY WAY FOR THE TWO LEADERS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND THAT, GIVEN THE APPARENT IMPOSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING FOR SCHMIDT TO MAKE A WORKING VISIT TO WASHINGTON BEFORE EARLY SUMMER, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THEY HAVE A CHANCE FOR A GOOD TALK IN LONDON. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CHANCELLOR WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS AND REGARDED IT AS ESSENTIAL.  
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